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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/098,518	03/18/2002	Kouji Yamamoto	1614.1235	6223

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EXAMINER

SHERR, CRISTINA O

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3621

DATE MAILED: 07/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/098,518

Applicant(s)

YAMAMOTO, KOUJI

Examiner

Cristina Owen Sherr

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 May 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-6,8-10 and 12-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-2, 4-6, 8-10, and 12-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to applicant's amendment filed May 1, 2006.

Claims 7, 11, and 15-17 have been canceled. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-10, and 12-14 have been amended. Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-10, and 12-14 are currently pending in this case.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

3. The drawings were received on March 18, 2002. These drawings are acceptable.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments, see applicant's amendment, filed May 1, 2006, with respect to the section 112 rejection of claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-10, and 12-14 have been fully considered and are persuasive, with respect to the amended version of said claims. The section 112 rejection of claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-10, and 12-14 has been withdrawn.

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to the section 103 rejections of claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-10, and 12-14 filed May 1, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

6. Applicant argues that nothing in the cited prior art reference discloses, teaches or suggests a range of user rights within which user rights are expanded, when a predetermined event occurs.

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7. Attention is directed to, for example: "A digital work is circulated with a ticket (included in the purchase price and possibly embedded in the work) that can be used for a future upgrade." (col 23, ln 23-25).

8. This is one example of user rights that are increased ("upgrade") in response to an event (use of the ticket).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-10, and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stefik et al (US 5,638,443).

10. Regarding claim 1 –
Stefik discloses a method digital rights management (e.g. abstract) in which rights are variable depending on various events such as fees paid (e.g. col 5 ln 62-67), managing user right information indicating the state in which the software program and used and user rights (e.g. col 6 ln 1-5); where all uses of copies of the digital work are controlled and billable (e.g. col 6 ln 12-15); updating the user rights information (e.g. col 13 ln 20-25); where the program is executed according to updated user rights information (e.g. col 13 ln 10-17).

11. Stefik does not use exactly the same terminology as the instant application nor show exactly the same examples of predetermined events, however, it would be

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obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to adapt Stefik thus obtaining the instant invention.

12. Regarding claims 2 and 4 –

Stefik discloses decoding user information such as credit information so as to update user rights based on said encrypted information (e.g. fig 3, col 7 ln 21-31); and verifying said information by way of predetermined keys (verification information) (e.g. col 14 ln 38-43).

13. As above, Stefik does not use exactly the same terminology as the instant application nor show exactly the same examples of predetermined events, however, it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to adapt Stefik thus obtaining the instant invention.

14. Claims 8-10 and 12-14 are rejected under the same criteria discussed above.

15. Examiner's note: ² Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant.

Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may be applied as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

Conclusion

16. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

17. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

18. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cristina Owen Sherr whose telephone number is 571-272-6711. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00 Monday through Friday.

19. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 571-272-6712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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20. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

COS, 07/18/06

John J. Smith
PRIMARY EXAMINER